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Chris Kempley
Chief Legal Counsel
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

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Dear Chris:

As you are aware, I have been spending some time recently attempting to establish tentative agendas for future special Open Meetings. Some of these special Open Meetings will be set up to provide the Commissioners opportunities to formally review reports and other materials produced as a result of Qwest's Section 271 application.

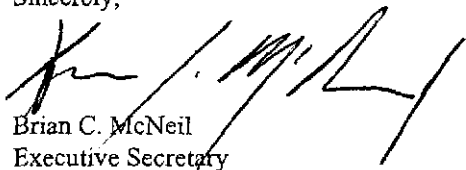
After determining what would likely be available for review and potential decision-making at November and December Special Open Meetings, it is apparent (at least to me) that certain deadlines established in staff schedules and the existing Procedural Order cannot be met. There are numerous reasons for this delay, however, I do not believe those reasons include a lack of effort or dedication by Commission Staff. I recognize that this matter is complex and contested, and I believe our Staff has, thus far, done an outstanding job of being thorough, accurate and fair.

I would ask you to strongly consider requesting the Administrative Law Judge in this matter to schedule a procedural conference to address the existing Procedural Order regarding Docket Number T-00000A-97-0238. At this point, I believe any delay in addressing these procedural dates only postpones the inevitable conclusion that schedules have slipped enough that, as an example, there is no realistic chance that a final report will be submitted on December 12, 2001. Whether this particular date was ever achievable is an academic question and not of great importance to me at this time. What is important to me is that (1) we maintain the commitment to thoroughness, fairness and accuracy; (2) a realistic set of deadlines be established; and (3) the Staff orient themselves to these deadlines (with everyone keeping in mind that common sense and flexibility need to be retained in sufficient quantity to make sure we do not adhere to such deadlines in a manner that leads to sacrificing thoroughness, fairness or accuracy). As we have discussed, we need to work on improving our internal and external communication regarding scheduling concerns. I am more than satisfied, however, that progress to date on the 271 application is appropriate given the complexity and volume of the material involved in this matter.

I noted that AT&T filed something yesterday regarding scheduling issues. Although you know this, I wanted to state for the record that the timing of this correspondence, relative to AT&T's filing, is purely coincidental.

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Sincerely,


Brian C. McNeil
Executive Secretary

cc: Chairman William A. Mundell
Commissioner Jim Irvin
Commissioner Marc Spitzer
Steve Olea, Acting Director, Utilities Division